



SRC Calendar: January 24-28

Sunday, Jan. 23: Sen. Mike Hewitt's Birthday	
Monday, Jan. 24: Sen. Jim Honeyford's Birthday	
10 a.m.	Senate Labor, Commerce, Research and Development Committee: Hearing on SB 5037 to provide long-term funding for problem gambling treatment, SHR 4 (TVW)
Noon	Pro Forma Session
1:30 p.m.	House Commerce & Labor Committee: Executive session on requiring apprenticeships on public works projects, HHR C
3:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee: Hearing on SB 5306: Sex ed requirements, SHR 4 (TVW) ✓ Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee: Hearing on K-12 finance study, SHR 1
Tuesday, Jan. 25	
7:15 a.m.	Tuesday Morning Fellowship: JAC ABC
9 a.m.	Senate Republican Caucus
10 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee: Work session Gov. Gregoire's Life Sciences Research Fund, SHR 4 ✓ Conservative Coalition Meeting: Evergreen Freedom Foundation, 2403 Pacific Ave SE
11:30 a.m.	Potato Day in the Rotunda
Noon	Pro Forma Session
1:30 p.m.	Senate Transportation Committee: Hearing on HOT Lanes pilot project (SB 5201), SHR 1 (TVW)
3:30 p.m.	Senate Judiciary Committee: Hearing on gun bills, SHR 1 (TVW)
Wednesday, Jan. 26: National Guard Recognition Day	
8 a.m.	Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee: Hearing on simple majority for school levies (SB 5144, SJR 8202), SHR 1 (TVW)
10 a.m.	Senate Session/Caucus
Thursday, Jan. 27	
8 a.m.	Senate Gov. Ops. & Elections Committee: Hearing on changing primary dates (SB 5219) and making the secretary of state non-partisan (SB 5122), SHR 2 (TVW)
10 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Senate Judiciary Committee: Hearing on dog-fighting (SB 5128) and animal cruelty (SB 5352), SHR 1 (TVW) ✓ Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee: Hearing on SB 5100: Greenhouse gas reduction objectives, SHR 4
Noon	Pro Forma Session
Friday, Jan. 28	
10 a.m.	Senate Session
Noon	Dee Hooper's Retirement Reception: State Reception Rm.

Gregoire and the "T" word...

Democrats: Is it finally safe to talk taxes? (Gov. Christine)

Gregoire campaigned on a loosely worded no-new-tax platform, saying that the state is just pulling out of recession and shouldn't be raising taxes.

But she didn't -- and still doesn't -- rule out a tax increase.

"My goal is a no-new-revenue budget." But she always includes a carefully worded afterthought that holds the door ajar. She said she'll produce a no-new-tax budget late next month and then see what the implications are for higher education, schools, health care and other priorities. She told reporters that "when" she looks at ideas for new revenues, she won't accept anything that harms the economy... Then she interrupted herself, saying "if I ever do" go there. In a later interview, she said she wouldn't accept a sales or business tax increase.

<http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20050123/topstories/74023.shtml>

News

Legislators have high hopes for 2005 session: Sen. Val Stevens, R-Arlington, said she is committed to balancing the budget without resorting to damaging tax increases or draining state reserve funds. "As our state and national economies continue to recover, now is not the time to take a step backwards by taxing working families and struggling businesses," she said. The senator said the Legislature faced a similar budget situation in 2003, with a \$2.6 billion budget hole, and through Republican leadership, still managed to balance the budget, protect the state's most vulnerable citizens and leave \$300 million in reserve. (*Skagit County Business Pulse*, 1/16/2005)

News & Info Courtesy of Senate Republican Caucus Chair Jim Honeyford * Birthdays courtesy of caucus staff *

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